

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 /053 W

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O R 201500Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1677

INFO DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYJAVIK

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8889

.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF LOCAL ELECTIONS: NEXT MOVES ON THE
NATIONAL SCENE

REF: ROME 8676, 8837

1. THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION PARTIES HAVE BEEN BADLY SHAKEN

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BY THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 15-16 ELECTIONS (REFTELS). ALL

TACITLY ACCEPT THAT CHANGES IN RELATIVE PARTY STRENGTHS EXPRESSED IN THESE LOCAL ELECTIONS WILL BE REFLECTED IN SOME, AS YET UNDEFINED CHANGE, IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

2. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT SUPPORT OR PARTICIPATION OF THE SOCIALISTS (PSI) IS ESSENTIAL FOR ANY VIABLE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, OTHER THAN ONE THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE COMMUNISTS (PCI). THE PSI'S LEVERAGE AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES HAS THUS MARKEDLY INCREASED.

3. THE ONLY VIABLE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY NOW POSSIBLE APPEARS TO BE ONE BASED ON DC-PSI COOPERATION IN TANDEM WITH THE SMALL REPUBLICAN (PRI) AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC (PSDI) PARTIES. THE PRINCIPAL ALTERNATIVES ARE A PSI-COMMUNIST LEFTIST FRONT (NOT WANTED BY THE COMMUNISTS), A DC-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTAL ACCORD (SPECIFICALLY REJECTED BY THE DC), OR EARLY NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (NOT NOW ADVOCATED BY ANY MAJOR PARTY INCLUDING THE PCI). THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION IS CAUSING ALL PARTIES TO PROCEED WITH GREAT CAUTION.

4. AT THIS STAGE, THE MAJOR PROTAGONISTS ARE THE DC AND PSI, WITH THE COMMUNISTS, AS USUAL, PLAYING A PRUDENT WAITING GAME. THE JUNE 19 DC DIRECTORATE MEETING (ROME 8837) DECIDED TO LEAVE PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI IN PLACE FOR THE TIME BEING AND CALLED FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION.

5. NO OTHER PARTY HAS YET TAKEN AN OFFICIAL POSITION, ALTHOUGH THE SMALL PRI AND PSDI CLEARLY FAVOR A RETURN TO THE CENTER-LEFT. WE ANTICIPATE A PROTRACTED PERIOD OF INTRA - AND INTER-PARTY CONSULTATION. THE PSI IN PARTICULAR IS TORN BY THE DESIRE TO REMAIN OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT (A POSITION TO WHICH IT ATTRIBUTES ITS ELECTORAL GAINS) AND THE ATTRACTIONS OF RETURNING TO GOVERNMENTAL POWER. WHILE THE PARTIES PONDER THEIR NEXT MOVES, THE MORO GOVERNMENT WILL REMAIN AFLOAT. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT ITS CONTINUATION IN OFFICE UNTIL KEY PARTY CONGRESSES THIS FALL WILL APPEAR TO BE AN INCREASINGLY ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO THE "CRISIS IN THE DARK" WHICH ITS DOWNFALL AT THIS STAGE WOULD PROVIDE. VOLPE

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